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II. ASIA-AFRICA

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OK South Vietnam: The Diem government has urgently requested American advice on coping with new Communist sabotage apparently aimed at disrupting the vital agricultural and land development programs. Communist bands, operating mainly in the delta region west and south of Saigon, in recent months have damaged or destroyed about 40 tractors and a dredge, mostly US aid equipment. Saigon fears the Communists may extend their sabotage to key railway and highway bridges. [REDACTED]

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DAILY BRIEF

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NO
Indonesia: The Constituent Assembly's failure to vote re-adoption of the 1945 constitution in its session on 30 May necessitates a second ballot on 1 June and, should the proposal again fail to pass, a third vote on 2 June. On the first ballot the proposal's backers were 47 votes short of the required two-thirds majority. Prime Minister Djuanda on 27 May had delivered a thinly veiled warning that failure to adopt the constitution might precipitate an army coup.

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OK
Singapore: The overwhelming victory of the left-wing People's Action party in the 30 May general elections will probably result in early release of a number of the party's extremist leaders jailed for subversion and may thus lead to renewed Communist efforts to take over control of the heavily infiltrated party. Even if more moderate elements retain party control, Singapore's first government under its new status of partial self-government will be basically anti-Western in outlook and might seek to limit the effectiveness of Singapore's large military installations in any international emergency.

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DAILY BRIEF

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LATE ITEM

OK
*USSR-Albania: The Khrushchev-Hoxha communiqué issued on 31 May, as reflected in Radio Moscow's summary of the statement, is relatively mild in tone. The statement according to the summary, asserts that "prospects for a relaxation of international tensions have improved considerably," in view of negotiations at Geneva and by "agreement to hold summit talks." The statement in general and non-specific terms calls for setting up a "nuclear and rocket weapon-free zone in Central Europe." The communiqué made no mention of Yugoslavia.

The joint statement apparently brings the "state visit" phase of Khrushchev's Albanian visit to an end. Presidium member Mukhitdinov and other members of Khrushchev's entourage have returned to Moscow, but the Soviet leader and Defense Minister Malinovsky apparently intend to remain in Albania until 6 June, as originally planned.

While no program for the second phase of the visit has been announced, Khrushchev's purpose may be to enhance the military flavor of threats against the establishment of missile bases in Italy and Greece which have marked his visit so far.

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DAILY BRIEF

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Communist Sabotage Campaign in South Vietnam

The Diem government in South Vietnam, increasingly alarmed by indications that the Communist underground may be passing to a new phase of serious violence, has appealed urgently for American advice on countermeasures. President Diem has acknowledged that Vietnam's security forces are having difficulty trying to suppress new Communist tactics involving sabotage of vital agricultural equipment, principally American aid items.

An explosive charge on 22 May severely damaged a dredge and killed a crew member in a province bordering on Cambodia west of Saigon. Nearly 40 tractors and bulldozers have been damaged or destroyed during the past several months by Communist machine-gun fire, burning, land mines, and explosives. (An apparently authentic Vietnamese Communist document calling for increased sabotage of agricultural equipment was captured recently.)

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These incidents seem to be part of a concerted campaign by the Communists to disrupt South Vietnam's agricultural and land development programs. The Diem government is counting heavily on these programs to consolidate its political and economic position. It fears the Communist sabotage will be extended to destruction of strategic rail and highway bridges. An attempt to blow up a new road bridge in central Vietnam has been reported by the American Consulate in Hue. (There is also concern over possibly increased Communist terrorism aimed at undermining confidence in the Diem government in the National Assembly elections to be held in a few months.)

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Leftist Party Wins Overwhelming Victory in Singapore Elections

Lee Kuan Yew, "moderate" secretary general of the Communist-infiltrated People's Action party (PAP), is slated to become the first prime minister of the new partially self-governing State of Singapore as a result of his party's sweeping victory in the 30 May general elections. The PAP won 43 of the 51 seats in the legislative assembly, Chief Minister Lim Yew Hock's moderate Singapore People's Alliance (SPA) won four, the United Malay National Organization - Malayan Chinese Association won three, and one independent was elected. Although Lim kept his own seat, the PAP landslide destroys his minimum pre-election goal of emerging from the elections with at least enough strength to head an effective moderate opposition in the assembly.

As soon as a PAP victory became apparent, Lee Kuan Yew renewed his threat not to form a government unless the British governor releases a number of key pro-Communist PAP leaders arrested in 1956-57. (The British will probably acquiesce to avoid a stalemate in which no government could be formed. Submission to Lee's demands, however, will be a blow to British prestige and cast doubt on London's ability to counter future PAP actions. Furthermore, freedom for the extremist leaders, several of whom enjoy great personal popularity, will enhance Communist prospects of taking over the leadership of the already heavily infiltrated party.

Even if the more moderate elements retain control of the PAP's central executive committee, the new government of Singapore will be basically anti-Western in outlook and will be in an excellent position to try to neutralize Singapore's large military installations in any international emergency.

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